

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00606 071459Z  
ACTION EUR-12

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: MASARYK WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

1. PRAGUE, MARCH 7 -- ON A COLD BUT CLEAR DAY, MARCH 7, 1978, ROBERT H. FROWICK, THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN PRAGUE, LAID A WREATH ON THE GRAVE OF THOMAS G. MASARYK, FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF ACCOMPANIED MR. FROWICK TO THE MASARYK GRAVE AT LANY, A 45-MINUTE DRIVE FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK CAPITAL. MEMBERS OF THE MASARYK FAMILY AND OTHER CZECHOSLOVAKS WERE THERE AND SOME OF THEM HAD PLACED FLORAL TRIBUTES ON THE GRAVE OF THE FOUNDER OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC AS WELL. SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE SEEN ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE APPROACHING THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S GRAVE WITH BOUQUETS OF SPRING FLOWERS.

2. IN THE MASARYK PLOT IN THIS SMALL COUNTRY CEMETERY, MASARYK'S AMERICAN WIFE, ALICE GARRIGUE, AND THEIR SON JAN, A FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER, ARE ALSO BURIED.

3. AFTER PLACING THE COMMEMORATIVE WREATH, MR. FROWICK MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS:

"THIS YEAR THE WREATH WE LAY ON THE GRAVE OF THOMAS  
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GARRIGUE MASARYK ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAS A SPECIAL MEANING. FOR 1978 IS A YEAR OF MANY SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES. TODAY WE RECALL THAT AS WORLD WAR I CAME TO A CLOSE SIXTY YEARS AGO THOMAS MASARYK, AIDED BY PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON, BROUGHT THE CZECHOSLOVAK STATE INTO BEING ON OCTOBER 28, 1918. BOTH OF THESE TRULY GREAT STATESMEN CHAMPIONED THE CAUSE OF NATIONAL SELF-

DETERMINATION.

"NOR CAN WE FORGET THAT ONLY THIRTY YEARS AGO ANOTHER MASARYK, PATRIOTIC AND TRUE TO THE IDEALS OF SELF-DETERMINATION, DEMOCRACY AND HUMANITY, DIED A TRAGIC DEATH.

"TODAY WE HONOR THE MEMORY OF THOMAS AND JAN MASARYK AND REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO A LASTING RESPECT FOR PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND DEMOCRACY -- REMEMBERING, AS THOMAS MASARYK HIMSELF ONCE STATED, THAT 'DEMOCRACY IS THE POLITICAL FORM OF THE HUMANE IDEAL.'"

4. NOTE: AMBASSADOR THOMAS R. BYRNE IS CURRENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES FOR CONSULTATION. PLEASE SUBSTITUTE THESE REMARKS FOR THOSE ORIGINALLY SENT AS THE TEXT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE AMBASSADOR.  
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